Investigations reveal that some women convicts who were undergoing rigorous imprisonment and who had to clean the women's ward complained about the manner in which the two women under-trials, Miss Akkamma Cheriyan and her sister, used the latrine. They remonstrated. The next day when the convict women were passing by their cells the under-trial prisoners raised shouts of Ki-Jails, when the former retorted that they were doing so because they had none to control them. Apparently words were exchanged.

The under-trials complained to the Jail Superintendent about the behaviour of the convicts and thereatened to go on hunger-strike. The matter was investigated and peace restored between the women convicts and the women under-trial prisoners.

Similarly investigations made into the complaints of members of the Youth League showed that they claimed privileges which cannot be allowed under the Jail Rules. These could not be allowed to them.

The allegation that the person and honour of any prsioner is at stake is a deliberate and mischievous falsehood disseminated for propagandist purposes. The treatment of prisoners in Travancore compares not unfavourably with the treatment elsewhere in India.

Huzur Cutcherry, (Sd.) N. P. HARIHARAN,
Trivandrum, 26th January 1939. *Director of Information.*

Hunger strike of political prisoners in the Central Jail.

2. **Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi**: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether the political prisoners in the Central Jail have gone on hunger strike recently ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the names of the prisioners who have gone on hunger strike and their reasons for so doing;

(*c*) whether they are still on hunger strike ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken any step to redress their grievances ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) One prisoner Kunjuraman Nair starved for a day, *viz.*, 13-2-1939.

(*b*) Non compliance with his requests for concessions.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Government have enquired into the matter What the prisoner wanted was a separate kitchen for himself and for some of his comrades. This request could not be allowed as being against Rule 297 of the Jail Rules.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

President : As a result of the election held yesterday, Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai is declared elected as member of the Public Accounts Committee for 1114 in the Place of Mr. R. V. Thomas. Mr. Arumukham Pillai has secured twelve votes ; two other votes are invalid.

Mr. Padiyara Joseph Kunju (*Nominated*) : സർ, ആഗ്രിക്കൽച്ചറിസ്റ്റ് റിലീഫ് റഗുലേഷൻ അമൻറുമെൻറ ബിൽ ഇന്നിവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഞാൻ അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചിരുന്നു. ആ ബിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ അജൻറയിൽ മൂന്നാമതായിട്ടാണ് ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. മുമ്പിൽ ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്ന രണ്ടു ബില്ലും പര്യാലോചനയ്ക്ക് എടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എൻറെ ബിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് സമയം ലഭിക്കാതെ വരുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് രണ്ടു മിനിറ്റു സമയം അനുവദിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എൻറെ ബിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

President : The two Bills referred to will not take much time

Legislative Business.

THE TRAVANCORE HINDU WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO PROPERTY BILL.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Travancore Hindu Women's Rights to Property Bill.

The necessity for the measure has been set out in detail in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Hindu Widows in Travancore who are governed by the Mitakshara Law are now labouring under very serious difficulties in getting even their quota of maintenance from the members of their husbands' families. As a rule, in the case of a childless widow, the relationship between her and the members of her husband's family will not at all be cordial ; she has to depend upon their mercy for her maintenance or rush to a court of law and wait for years for a declaration of a favourable judgment for her maintenance. To remedy this defect Act XXVII of 1937, and Act XI of 1938 amending the Act of 1937, have been enacted in British India. Under these Acts, the childless widows in British India get the right to enjoy their husband's share of family property ; and if necessary, they are even entitled to sue for partition of the family property of their husbands.

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